

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07  
IO-13 SSM-03 /087 W  
-----192227 115622 /63/41

O P 191650Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9208  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 1638

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-TEXT (PARAS 2 & 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CY, AU, OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M.)  
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD MISSION: VIENNA: CLIFFORD/KREISKY MEETING

1. SECRETARY CLIFFORD MET WITH CHANCELLOR KREISKY MORNING  
FEBRUARY 17, PRESENT WERE MATTHEW NIMETZ, COUNSELOR-  
DESIGNATE, STATE, NELSON LEDSKY, EUR/SE, AND GREGORY  
TREVERTONN FROM CLIFFORD PARTY, AND AMBASSADOR BUCHANAN  
AND POLCOUNS TRINKA FROM EMBASSY. DISCUSSION FORCUSSED MORE  
ON MIDDLE EAST THEN CYPRUS.

2. CLIFFORD BEGAN BY CONVEYING TO CHANCELLOR PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S PERSONAL BEST WISHES, HIS APPRECIATION OF CLOSE,  
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FRIENDLY RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN U.S. AND AUSTRIA AND  
HIS EXPRESSION OF DESIRE TO MEET WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR  
TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. CLIFFORD ALSO NOTED  
PRESIDNET'S COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS ON AUSTRIA'S  
THOUGHTFUL AND UNIQUE BECENTENNIAL GIFT TO THE U.S.  
IN FORM OF TWO UNIVERSITY CHAIRS AND ON POSITIVE RESPONSE  
THIS GIFT HAD ELICITED AMONG AMERICAN PEOPLE.

3. KREISKY OBSERVED THAT THE GIFT WAS AUSTRIA'S WAY OF SHOWING ITS THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO U.S. FOR WHAT IT HAD DONE FOR AUSTRIA IN THE PAST. CHANCELLOR INDICATED HE FELT IT WOULD BE EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR SMALL GROUP, INCLUDING HIMSELF, TO GO TO U.S. FOR PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND, WHILE HE DID NOT WANT TO DISTURB US LEADERS IN FIRST MONTHS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION, HE DID HOPE TO SEE SOME RANKING OFFICIALS. GESTURE OF UNIVERSITY CHAIRS ALSO SERVES TO EDUCATE YOUNG AUSTRIANS POLITICALLY CONCERNING ROLE OF U.S. DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE AND TO REMIND AUSTRIANS OF SUCCESS OF MARSHALL PLAN FROM WHICH AUSTRIA, EVEN TODAY, CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR BENEFICIARY.

4. CLIFFORD EXPLAINED CURRENT MAJOR U.S. INTEREST IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND HOW MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS WOULD HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON USG RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT NATO ALLIES, TURKEY AND GREECE. MISSION FOCUS WOULD BE ON OBTAINING FIRST HAND READING OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS AND, ON THAT BASIS, ON SEEKING WAYS IN WHICH US COULD BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING IEEUS. ANY SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS CHANCELLOR MIGHT HAVE ON SUBJECT WOULD BE WELCOMED.

5. KREISKY STATED HE WAS NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH CYPRUS PROBLEM AND OBSERVED THAT HIS RECITATION OF SECOND-HAND INFORMATION WOULD ONLY BE WASTE OF TIME FOR CLIFFORD MISSION. HE WENT ON TO NOTE, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT HE WAS WELL INFORMED ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, ISRAEL, RECEIVING ARMS AND MONEY FROM U.S., SHOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO ACCEPT ADVICE. DOMESTIC SITUATION IN ISRAEL IS BIT CONFUSED AND UNCERTAIN, AND THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHO OF VARIOUS CONTENDERS FOR POWER WILL HAVE COURAGE AND POLITICAL STRENGTH TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT WITH ARABS. SITUATION WITHIN PLO NOW APPEARS ALSO TO BE UNCLEAR. AT PLO CONFERENCE IN MARCH, ARAFAT WILL TRY TO ADOPT MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION AND, IF NOTHING STARTLING OR UNEXPECTED HAPPENS IN INTERIM, SUCH A MOVE SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. ARAFAT IS SAYING THAT IF PLO RECOGNIZES STATE OF PALESTINE AS NEIGHBOR OF ISRAEL, SUCH A STANCE INDICATES A WILLINGNESS TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL. HOWEVER, SHOULD THERE BE NO PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING CURRENT ARAB-ISRAEL IMPASSE, PROSPECTS FOR LEFTIST RADICALIZATION OF IRAQI VARIETY THROUGHTOUT ENTIRE ARAB WORLD WOULD SHARPLY INCREASE AND SOVIET UNION WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXPLOIT SUCH OPPORTUNITY.

6. CLIFFORD NOTED NUMBER OF ENCOURAGING SIGNS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, SUGGESTING THAT COMBINATION OF FACTORZ IS NOW DEVELOPING WHICH HOLDS SOME PROMISE OF PROVIDING IMPETUS FOR SETTLEMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 1638

7. KREISKY SAID HE SHARED THIS VIEWPOINT. CURRENT SITUATION IS THE MOST ENCOURAGING ONE IN YEARS AND U.S. WAS WISELY MOVING TO EXPLORE AND ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. ARAB PSYCHOLOGY IS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN TIMING OF EFFORT. ARAB EXPERIENCE OF MILITARY DEFEATS HAS HAD IMPORTANT IMPACT AND AMONG MODERATE ARABS THERE IS CERTAIN APPRECIATION FOR WHAT IS REALISTICALLY OBTAINABLE. PALESTINIANS ARE IN MANY WAYS LIKE JEWS IN DIASPORA; LIFE IN CAMPS (LIKE GHETTOS) ALLOWS MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES. KREISKY SAID HE HAS SUGGESTED TO PALESTINIANS, WHENEVER APPROPRIATE, WHY NOT HAVE OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO CAMPS; NAMELY SMALL TERRITORY WHICH COULD BE CALLED "PALESTINE". AT SAME TIME, KREISKY CAUTIONED THAT IN SPITE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, MIDDLE EAST REMAINS POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE

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IN NEAR FUTURE AND COULD EASILY BECOME SCENE OF ANOTHER  
ROUND OF HOSTILITIES AND WAR.

8. CLIFFORD SAID EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AREA WAS ALSO,  
IN U.S. VIEW, MOST CRITICAL PROBLEM AREA IN WORLD AND  
HENCE MAJOR USG EFFORT IS NOW UNDERWAY TO ATTEMPT TO  
RESOLVE CYPRUS AND ARAB-ISRAELI CONTROVERSIES.  
CLIFFORD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY  
EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH CHANCELLOR ON THESE TOPICS.

9. KREISKY REQUESTED HIS BEST REGARDS BE EXTENDED TO  
THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, WISHED  
CLIFFORD EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS IMPORTANT MISSION AND  
OBSERVED THAT AUSTRIA IS A SMALL COUNTRY BUT IS READY  
TO BE HELPFUL WHERE IT CAN.

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